

REMARKS

Claims 13-26 face the following rejections. Claims 13-15, 21-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (a) as being anticipated by the admitted prior art (APA) of pages 1 and 2 of the patent application. Claims 16-18, 20, 24-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over the APA in view of Hyder. Claim 19 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over the APA in view of Hyder and further in view of Petrusha. All of these claims have been cancelled and Applicants submit new claims 27-39 to put this application in condition for allowance.

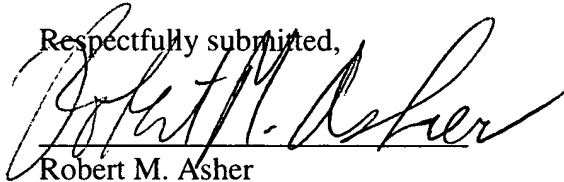
The APA describes a layered stack of device drivers. The application describes how a driver in a stack exports a device to the driver above it and how a driver is bound to a driver below it in a stack. At page 3 of the application, the Background of the Invention concludes there is a need for a layered device driver registration system that “allows a layered device driver to be dynamically inserted into or removed from a particular device driver stack.”

Hyder does not disclose dynamically adding or removing of a device driver. In particular, there is no mention of an unbinding operation. Hyder discloses a layered stack of device drivers. The use of a layered stack facilitates the writing of code for a product since drivers may be reused and reconfigured. A user can incorporate a new feature by adding a driver into a stack, but Hyder provides no suggestion, disclosure, or teaching of changing a stack dynamically. Hyder requires reloading of the system to make a change to the stack. Drivers are registered upon loading. “If a particular user desires to incorporate a new driver feature, such as for example encryption, a new link layer intermediate driver may be configured within the process flow by incorporating interconnection or routing information into abstract interface 134 upon loading of the driver.” (Hyder, col. 7, lines 38-43). Changes can be made for incorporating into a system to be loaded, but once loaded Hyder provides no suggestion of dynamically reconfiguring the stack.

Applicants submit that new Claims 27-41 distinguish Applicants’ invention over the cited art. These claims recite the use of unbinding and binding to reconfigure a layered stack

dynamically. Changes can be made to the stack without rebooting the system. Neither the APA nor the Hyder reference disclose or suggest the invention as claimed in Claims 27-41. Applicants submit that the claims currently in the application are patentable over the art of record and early notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert M. Asher", written over a horizontal line.

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